Appointment on Compassionate Grounds in Department of Posts in Bihar

27. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1287 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1998 and state;

(a) whether all relevant data relating to appointment on compassionate grounds in the Department of Posts has since been obtained and examined by the Circle Selection Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the above process would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) All relevant data relating to appointment on compassionate grounds in the Department of Posts in Bihar Circle have since been obtained. Examination by the Circle Selection Committee is yet to take place.

(b) the Circle Selection Committee is to meet shortly.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The process will be completed as soon as the Circle Committee meets shortly.

Cellular licence of MTNL

28. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has struck down the new internal policy and cancelled the cellular licence of MTNL;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and DOT thereto;

(c) the reasons for the TRAI taking this decision; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The TRAI has struck down the new Internet Policy and cancelled the Cellular Licence of MNTL.

(b) DOT not satisfied with the order of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had appealed in Delhi High Court.

(c) TRAI took the view that the Government had not obtained the recommendations of TRAI on the terms and conditions of licence and on the need and timing of a new service provider.

(d) DOT had filed an appeal against TRAI's order dated 17.2.1998 in Delhi High Court. Delhi High Court Order dated 16.7.1998 has quashed the above TRAI's order. Based on this order of High Court, internet licences are being issued as per the internet policy. However, one of the cellular service provider has appealed in the Division Bench of the Delhi High Court against High Court order dated 16.7.1998 for stopping MTNL to have cellular services in Delhi and Mumbai. The case is fixed for hearing on 3rd March, 1999.

फोन कंपनियों के पास बकाया राशियां

29. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ फोन कंपनियों के पास 796 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि बकाया है तथा सरकार ने उन कंपनियों को 15 फरवरी, 1999 तक कुल बकाया राशि का 20 प्रतिशत भुगतान करने का निर्देश दिया है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन कंपनियों ने सरकारी निर्देशों का पालन करने से इंकार कर दिया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की है?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री श्री कबीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ: (क) दिनांक 31.01.99 की स्थिति के अनुसार सेल्युलर तथा बुनियादी सेवा के प्रचालकों पर लाइसेंस शुल्क के रूप में 3708.10 करोड़ रु० बकाया है। दिनांक 25.01.99 को इन प्रचालकों को पत्र जारी कर दिए गए हैं जिनमें उनसे यह कहा गया है कि वे ब्याज सहित बकाया राशि का एक मुश्त भुगतान तत्काल करें। यदि वे ऐसा करने में असमर्थ हैं तो अपनी बकाया राशि का कम से कम 20

प्रतिशत तत्काल भुगतान कर दें। इसके अलावा इन प्रचालकों से यह भी कहा गया है कि वे ब्याज सहित अपनी बकाया राशि में से भुगतान की गई राशि को घटाने के बाद शेष राशि की कवर करने के लिए अपनी वित्तीय बैंक गारंटियों में भी वृद्धि करें।

(ख) और (ग) दिनांक 25.01.99 के पत्र में इन प्रचालकों से यह भी अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे लाइसेंस शर्तों का कड़ाई से पालन करें। इन शर्तों का पालन न करने की स्थिति में लाइसेंस प्राधिकारी, लाइसेंस करार की शर्तों के तहत कार्रवाई करने तथा अपने पास उपलब्ध अन्य निवारक कार्रवाइयों का सहारा लेने के लिए मजबूर होगा। जहां एक तरफ कंपनियों से अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं वहीं दूसरी ओर कुछ कम्पनियों ने भुगतान भी किया है।

Introduction of Global Mobile Personal Communications Service

30. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Company having a foreign equity upto a maximum of 49 per cent is eligible for Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) Service as per the present rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a foolproof mechanism is provided to take care of national security concerns arising from the introduction of GMPCS in India and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if answer to part (c) above is in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per policy approved by the Government, any Indian registered company having a foreign equity upto a maximum of 49 per cent shall be eligible for grant of GMPCS Service licence on non-exclusive basis subject to clearance from security angle.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government, after considering all aspects, have stipulated that the Gateways (Earth Stations) for all licensed systems would be located in India and their operation and maintenance would be with an authority/organisation designated by the Government. Specific proposals for GMPCS License will be cleared from security angle by a High Level Inter-Ministrial Committee.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.

Formulation of New Postal Policy

31. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state what are the details of steps which are being taken by Government to formulate any new postal policy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): During 1997 a draft National Postal Policy was prepared and submitted for consideration of the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Ministry of Communications in its meeting held on 28th August, 1997. However, discussions remained inconclusive. Keeping in view the rapid social-economic development and all pervasive technological advances in the communications sector and increasing pressure for faster and a more efficient service and to offer value added services especially tailor made for identified customer segments, the draft National Postal Policy was further modificed and discussed in a meeting of the Consultative Committee held on 5th February, 1999. It is being further modified in the light of the discussions held.

Repair of Roads and Footpaths demolished due to cabling work

32. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone cabling work was carried out by Government in fornt of CGHS dispensaries, Sector-12, R.K. Puram, New Delhi in January, 1999 and the roads and footpaths which were demolished for the purpose have not yet been repaired so far causing inconvenience to the residents of this area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action against the contractors and guilty Government officials in this regard; and